

GOVERNMENT
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND TRAINING**

DIRECTOR GENERAL

Private Mail Bag 028
Port Vila, Vanuatu
Tel : 22309
Fax : 23289



GOUVERNEMENT
DE LA
REPUBLIQUE DE
VANUATU

**MINISTERE DE
L'EDUCATION ET DE LA
FORMATION**

DIRECTEUR GENERAL

Sac Postal Prive 028
Port Vila, Vanuatu
Tel: (678) 22309
Tel/Fax: (678) 23289

31/02/2017

Press Release

Education Minister attends Dialogue on Science & Science Policy for small Island Developing, UNESCO, Apia

The Minister of Education and Training Honorable Jean Pierre Nirua (MP) has led a delegation to attend the International workshop entitled "Dialogue on Science and Science Policy for the SDG's in the Pacific Small Island Developing held in Apia, Samoa, from 29th to 30th March 2017.

The workshop is being organized by UNESCO and the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA), in collaboration with the Government of New Zealand and of Samoa.

The workshop will endeavor to assess the needs and options for bridging the gaps between science, technology and innovation (ST&I) systems and policy makers in the Pacific SIDS, within the framework of the SDGs and the UNESCO's SIDS Action Plan. The workshop brought together Ministers, Chief Executive Officers, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-Generals and Vice-Chancellors from across the Pacific to ensure a strategic approach to an issue that cuts many ministries and government department.

During his presentation Hon. Jean Pierre Nirua explained that in Vanuatu the absences of a clear science Technology and Innovations (STI), a few institutions like National Meteorology, Géohazards and Climate Change/Disaster Management Ministries are seen to coordinate aspects of STI programmes relevant to their specific fields.

"There is expectation for the Ministry of Education & Training with the support of institutions of research and science education, to play the leading role with coordinating function over STI. Once the National university, is established with the national Research Centre, then this function could be better managed and delivered in collaboration with all institutions involved in research in Vanuatu".

Hon Nirua clarified that in Vanuatu, STI priorities are not clearly articulated or spelled out as yet to-date, even though each economic and research sector have their own policy guidelines with strategies to guide them.

Minister Nirua further stated that the major country science needs Would be;

A “.In emergencies (for instance, for a particular cyclone recovery, tropical disease outbreak, negotiation over fishing or mining rights, drought, etc?) – classical cases requiring science advice which emerge during cyclone recovery include food security and water safety for consumption, precautionary measures against disease outbreak, caution over donated foodstuffs with expiry dates, use of damaged food and materials.

B. In country Policy making, there is also a great need in almost all development areas, but it is more visible in Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Livestock, Food Technology, Meteorology, Climate Change, Géohazards, Volcanology, Sea-level monitoring, Minerals and Research areas”.

As recipients of Official Development Assistance (ODA), island nations will always need scientific advice.

“As such, it is important to invest in local capacity-building to ensure we avail of the best advice when in need. And these Assistance, on an ad hoc or case by case basis as the need arise, e.g., in times of disasters for NDMO.

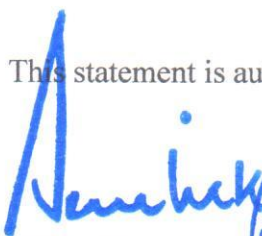
“on a national level, the need to build local national capacity in research and science advice is seen as improvements over the current situation”.

The Education Minister Jean Pierre Nrua agreed that they is a need to establish a point of coordination at the national, regional/international level to ensure regional & benchmarks are established for quality control and effective monitoring.

Nirau emphasized that “in Vanuatu, woman scientist would face similar opportunities and barriers such as good education opportunities, particularly interest in science, funding for research opportunities”. “In Vanuatu, two key scientific institutions are led by woman models; namely the department of Geo-hazards and that of food testing.

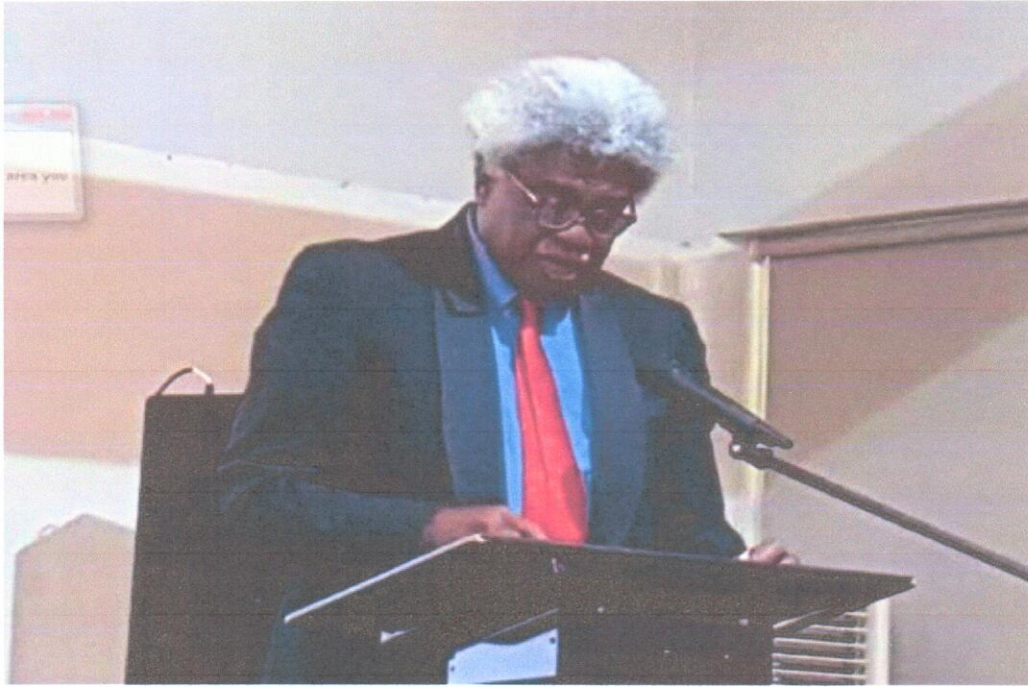
The Honorable Minister Nirua (MP) is being accompanied by his First Political Adviser, Mr. Didier Virelala and the Acting Director General, Mr. Jesse Dick Joe.

This statement is authorized by



Jesse Joe Dick
Director General





“We need a Framework for Science in the Pacific SIDS” Minister Nirua.

